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**Name of Organization:** Great Lakes Commission

**Type of Organization:** Interstate Agency or Commission

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**Project Title:** Preparing for the Next Decade in ANS Prevention and Control

**Project Category:** Exotic Species

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 1

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 55,165 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

**Abstract:**

The Great Lakes Commission, as staff to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, proposes to undertake policy research and analysis, including a regional symposium, to assess past progress and recommend future directions in aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control. The goal of the project is two-fold: 1) recognize innovative policies, programs and measures that have advanced ANS prevention and control in the Great Lakes region and beyond since landmark U.S. federal legislation was passed a decade ago; and 2) identify gaps and unmet needs based on the current status of ANS programs, with a particular focus on issues that would be pertinent to reauthorization and implementation of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA, 1996). To facilitate a multi-disciplinary dialogue, participation in the policy review and symposium will be targeted at policy makers, research scientists, resource managers and information/education specialists. A synopsis of symposium findings will be presented in a proceedings document and widely disseminated.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** All AOCs

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:**

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

The invasion of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in the Great Lakes and inland waters continues to threaten the ecological integrity, biological diversity and economic health of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence ecosystem. Prevention and control of such aquatic invaders is a challenging endeavor requiring a significant commitment of programmatic, technical and financial resources by jurisdictions in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region.

The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species has earned a reputation as an effective, multidisciplinary forum for advancing ANS prevention and control via information/education, research coordination, and policy and legislation. These initiatives, among others, have been instrumental in facilitating implementation of NISA in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region as well as other parts of the country.

However, as implementation efforts proceed and more is learned about the complexity of ANS problems, new issues emerge. Efforts must continue to identify how resources can be most effectively used in the prevention and control of invasive species. A case in point is the growing recognition that prevention of ANS introductions is the most effective approach to keeping the invasive species problem from escalating. For this reason, the policy community has placed a priority on examining how ballast water can be best managed to minimize new ANS introductions. Potential approaches could involve design requirements on new ship construction; Best Available Technology standards for ballast treatment; creation of incentives for installation of treatment on ships; and establishing federal and/or state authority to regulate ballast water. Another issue of increasing concern is the threat that nonindigenous invasions pose to the biodiversity of ecosystems. Removing the stress of biological pollution is a key measure that must be taken to protect endangered ecosystems and restore impacted ones.

Stakeholders in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region must address such emerging issues to shape management actions that prevent and mitigate invasive species problems. This is particularly true with reauthorization of NISA on the horizon; a thorough and objective review of progress, obstacles and emerging challenges is most timely and much needed.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

This project will yield a comprehensive set of findings and recommendations that will guide future ANS prevention and control efforts. Contributing to this outcome will be a methodical review of progress under U.S. federal legislation over the past decade; an assessment of unmet needs; and the identification of scientific, management and policy issues that will require attention as a second decade of concerted ANS prevention and control efforts begins. Policy/program research, a technical workshop and a proceedings document will support the project outcome. Specifically, four tasks will be pursued:

Task One: Assessment of Progress in ANS Prevention and Control: Great Lakes Commission staff, under the guidance of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, will coordinate a methodical review and assessment of programs over the last decade, examining research and policy components, program implementation, funding and related matters. This will also yield a summary of issues and unmet needs that must be addressed in the future. The research will

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be augmented by personal interviews, information gathering, and a survey directed to ANS coordinators in state, provincial, federal and regional entities.

**Task Two: Symposium Design and Conduct:** The Great Lakes Commission staff, in consultation with Panel membership, will design and conduct a 1-2 day symposium within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region. The first part of the symposium will provide a retrospective, through plenary sessions, on ANS prevention and control programs under landmark U.S. federal legislation over the past decade. The symposium will then shift its focus to building consensus on unmet needs and other priorities regarding ANS prevention and control. This portion of the symposium will be conducted through facilitated small-group sessions. Also, opportunities for collaboration between policy makers, research scientists, resource managers and information/education specialists will be addressed, with the goal of strengthening ANS prevention and control programs and associated implementation efforts. Symposium invitees will include representatives from the aforementioned disciplines from state, regional, tribal and federal levels as well as representatives from recreational and industrial water use groups. The program assessment, cited above, will be disseminated to participants in preparation for the symposium.

**Task Three: Proceedings Document:** On the basis of the program assessment, symposium presentations and small-group discussions, the Great Lakes Commission staff will prepare a proceedings document. Featured in the document will be an evaluation of the progress over the past decade and consensus-based recommendations on new directions in research, monitoring and prospective voluntary and mandatory programs.

**Task Four: Dissemination, Promotion and Technical Assistance:** The proceedings document will be widely circulated, with hard-copy distribution to symposium participants and membership of the Great Lakes Panel and national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, among others. The intent is to provide guidance in setting individual and collective agency priorities; and to inform and educate interested parties as NISA is reauthorized. The dissemination phase of the project will also be conducted online via the Great Lakes Panel web site.

<b>Project Milestones:</b>	<b>Dates:</b>
Project Start	10/2000
Programmatic Assessment	02/2001
Conference Design and Conduct:	04/2001
Symposium Document:	09/2001
Dissemination, Promotion, Tech. Assist.	09/2001
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Project End	09/2001

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Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

Advancing ANS prevention and control efforts will yield basinwide benefits in terms of habitat preservation/improvement; protection of the sport and commercial fishery; and the more efficient and cost-effective targeting of public funds. This will benefit all sectors of society including those that have been historically underserved and disproportionately impacted.

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Education and outreach is a major component of this project, as evidenced by the proposed methodology. The Great Lakes Panel, which includes 35 members drawn from all sectors of the community involved in/affected by ANS, will have a major role in all project tasks. Symposium planning will feature an open and inclusive process to ensure that all relevant interests are invited to participate. The Great Lakes Commission's dissemination capability – via electronic and conventional means – will ensure that the larger community is apprised of project outcomes and opportunities to apply them.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	22,000	1,595
<b>Fringe:</b>	7,700	560
<b>Travel:</b>	3,000	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	1,000	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	800	0
<b>Contracts:</b>	0	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	7,400	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	41,900	2,155
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	13,265	755
<b>Total:</b>	55,165	2,910
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

None

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

Project research, and the associated symposium and proceedings document, will have a Great Lakes St. Lawrence regional focus with broader applicability nationwide. The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces, as well as U.S. and Canadian federal agencies responsible for ANS issues, will provide the basis for an historical perspective on scientific and policy work over the past decade. These and other relevant organizations – both within and outside government – will also be consulted as emerging issues and challenges are identified. The Great Lakes Panel membership will play an active role in the project, providing input from a representative array of governmental agencies, research organizations, and recreational, industrial water-use and environmental groups. The Great Lakes Commission's extensive network of Basin contacts will be used to ensure that the project work conducted is comprehensive. Dissemination will be pursued via conventional (e.g., mailings, conference, press releases) and electronic (e.g., Great Lakes Information Network) means.